

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-7, and 9 stand rejected and claims 2 and 8 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 10-24, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 8. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 10 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 10 was objected to based on an informality. Applicant has amended claim 10 in light of the Examiner's objection. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 10.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,553,031 ("Nakamura") in view of JP 403225412A ("Naka"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Among the limitations of each of Applicant's independent claim not present in the cited reference is "an address pointer table for storing location information indicating an entry address of each next-hop address stored in the IP flow table and relationship information among entry addresses of next-hop address stored in the IP flow table."

The Office Action admits that Nakamura does not expressly disclose an address pointer table for storing location information indicating an entry address of each next-hop address stored in the IP flow table. To cure this deficiency, the Office Action utilizes Naka. Naka is used to teach that the presence of file data on a data storage

position can be accessed using a pointer table. However, Naka fails to disclose a pointer table as recited in Applicant's claim.

Applicant claims not only the entry address of a next-hop address, i.e., the data storage position, but also relationship information among entry addresses of next-hop addresses stored in the IP flow table. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Naka fails to cure the noted deficiency in Nakamura and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

As discussed in the specification at paragraph 70, the address pointer table provides relationships between entries of the routing table and entries of the IP flow table. By referring to the address pointer table, the microprocessor can directly find linked IP flows from the IP flow table without searching the IP flow table. Thus, the table management for encapsulating IP packet flows can be simplified and the time required for packet routing and forwarding processing can be dramatically reduced resulting in improved throughput of the packet switch. Thus, the pointer table not only provides the next-hop address but also provides the relationship between the various entries of the IP flow table. At least the relationship information feature is not present in Naka.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Docket No.: K2291.0094

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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